

Application Serial No. 09/837,102
Reply to Office Action of May 30, 2003

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

- 1 (canceled)
2. (previously presented) A filter cartridge which is prepared by winding a non-woven fabric strip comprising a thermoplastic fiber around a perforated cylinder in a twill form, said thermoplastic fiber being direction aligned, wherein the non-woven fabric strip satisfies the following equation (B):
$$\log_{10} Y < 3.75 - 0.75 (\log_{10} X) \quad (B)$$
wherein X ($\text{cm}^3/\text{cm}^2/\text{sec}$) is an airflow amount of the non-woven fabric strip measured in accordance with JIS L 1096-A (1990), and Y (g/m^2) is a basis weight thereof.
3. (herein amended) A filter cartridge which is prepared by winding a non-woven fabric strip comprising a thermoplastic fiber around a perforated cylinder in a twill form, wherein in winding in a the twill form, a number (W) of winding the non-woven fabric strip from one end to ~~the other~~ another end in a longitudinal direction of the perforated cylinder is one to 10 per a length of 250 mm in the perforated cylinder.
4. (previously presented) The filter cartridge as claimed in claim 3, wherein when a 2-fold value (2W) of the winding number (W) is represented by a fraction having a denominator of two figures or less which is a non-reducible approximate value, the denominator is 4 to 40.

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5. (herein amended) The filter cartridge as claimed in claim + 2, wherein at least a part of fiber intersections of the non-woven fabric strip is thermally bonded.
6. (herein amended) The filter cartridge as claimed in claim + 2, wherein the non-woven fabric strip has a width of 0.5 to 40 cm.
7. (herein amended) The filter cartridge as claimed in claim + 2, wherein a product of a width (cm) and a basis weight (g/m^2) of the non-woven fabric strip is 10 to 200.
8. (herein amended) The filter cartridge as claimed in claim + 2, wherein the non-woven fabric strip has a thickness of 0.02 to 1.20 mm.
9. (herein amended) The filter cartridge as claimed in claim + 2, wherein the non-woven fabric strip is thermal compression bonded by means of a heat embossing roll having an embossing area rate of 5 to 25%.
10. (herein amended) The filter cartridge as claimed in claim + 2, wherein the filter material of the filter cartridge has a void rate of 65 to 85%.
- 11 (canceled)
12. (herein amended) The filter cartridge as claimed in claim + 2, wherein the long direction aligned fiber non-woven fabric is produced by a spun bonding method.
- 13 (canceled)

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14. (herein amended) The filter cartridge as claimed in claim 2, wherein the thermoplastic fiber is a composite fiber comprising a low melting resin and a high melting resin, a difference of the melting points between these resins being 10°C or more.

15. (herein amended) The filter cartridge as claimed in claim 2, wherein the thermoplastic fiber is a fiber formed from at least one thermoplastic resin selected from the group consisting of a polyester resin, a polyamide resin, a polyethylene resin and a polypropylene resin.

16. (withdrawn) A process for producing a filter cartridge, which comprises winding a non-woven fabric strip comprising a thermoplastic fiber around a perforated cylinder in a twill form, wherein the non-woven fabric strip satisfies the following equation (A):

$$\log_{10} Y < 3.75 - 0.6 (\log_{10} X) \quad (A)$$

wherein X (cm³/cm²/sec) is an airflow amount of the non-woven fabric strip measured in accordance with JIS L 1096-A (1990), and Y (g/m²), and Y (g/m²) is a basis weight thereof.

17. (withdrawn) A process for producing a filter cartridge, which comprises winding a non-woven fabric strip comprising a thermoplastic fiber around a perforated cylinder in a twill form, wherein in winding in a twill form, a number (W) of winding the non-woven fabric strip from one end to the other end in a longitudinal direction of the perforated cylinder is one to 10 per a length of 250 mm in the perforated cylinder.

18. (new) The filter cartridge as claimed in claim 2, wherein fiber intersections of said non-woven fabric strip are not resin-bonded.

19. (new) The filter cartridge as claimed in claim 3, wherein at least a part of fiber intersections of the non-woven fabric strip is thermally bonded.

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20. (new) The filter cartridge as claimed in claim 3, wherein the non-woven fabric strip has a width of 0.5 to 40 cm.
21. (new) The filter cartridge as claimed in claim 3, wherein a product of a width (cm) and a basis weight (g/m^2) of the non-woven fabric strip is 10 to 200.
22. (new) The filter cartridge as claimed in claim 3, wherein the non-woven fabric strip has a thickness of 0.02 to 1.20 mm.
23. (new) The filter cartridge as claimed in claim 3, wherein the non-woven fabric strip is thermal compression bonded by means of a heat embossing roll having an embossing area rate of 5 to 25%.
24. (new) The filter cartridge as claimed in claim 3, wherein the filter material of the filter cartridge has a void rate of 65 to 85%.
25. (new) The filter cartridge as claimed in claim 3, wherein the direction aligned non-woven fabric is produced by a spun bonding method.
26. (new) The filter cartridge as claimed in claim 3, wherein the thermoplastic fiber is a composite fiber comprising a low melting resin and a high melting resin, a difference of the melting points between these resins being 10°C or more.
27. (new) The filter cartridge as claimed in claim 3, wherein the thermoplastic fiber is a fiber formed from at least one thermoplastic resin selected from the group consisting of a polyester resin, a polyamide resin, a polyethylene resin and a polypropylene resin.

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28. (new) The filter cartridge as claimed in claim 3, wherein fiber intersections of said non-woven fabric strip are not resin-bonded.